

REPLACE THE 5TH PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 3, which begins on line 22, with the following:

The present invention also relates to a vibratory screen tensioning member comprising an elongated body, a base on said elongated body, and a plurality of spaced fingers on said base extending longitudinal longitudinally of said body.

REPLACE THE 6TH FULL PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 5, which begins on line 13, with the following:

FIG. 10 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the support for the movable tensioning member mounted on the side of the machine and taken substantially in the direction of arrows 10-10 of FIG. 3;

REPLACE THE 3RD AND 4TH PARAGRAPHS ON PAGE 6, which begin on line 6, with the following:

FIG. 18 is a fragmentary cross sectional view taken substantially along line 18-18 of FIG. 13 and showing the connection between the movable member of the tightening nut assembly and the bolt which is attached to the movable tensioning member;

FIG. 19 is a schematic view of a plurality of screens mounted between the sides of the vibratory screening machine and having movable tensioning members mounted on only one side of the machine; and

REPLACE THE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 6 which begins on line 18, and continues through the last line on page 7, with the following:

The improved screen tensioning structure of the present invention is for mounting on a vibratory screening machine of any suitable type. Vibratory screening machine 10 of FIGS. 1-3 is of conventional construction except for certain structure, namely, the structure associated with the improved tensioning structure of the present invention. Thus, the vibratory screening machine 10 may be of the types shown in U.S. patents Nos. 5,332,101 and 4,882,054, the latter two patents being incorporated herein by reference and which should be referred to for a better understanding of the present invention. By way of specific description, the vibratory screening machine 10 includes a base 11 having a vibratory frame 14 suitably mounted thereon. Standards 13 and 13', which are mirror image counterparts, are mounted on base 11, and they pivotally support frame 14 by means of trunnions 15 and 15'. Side walls 12 and 12' are resiliently mounted on frame 14 by means of elastomeric connectors 17 and 17' to permit the screen-supporting assembly ~~16~~ 16' to vibrate when actuated by vibrator motor assembly 19 suitably connected thereto. The foregoing type of mounting is conventional in the art. In addition to struts 16 which connect walls 12 and 12' to each other, a plurality of cross members 20 (FIGS. 2, 19 and 20) are spacedly mounted between side walls 12 and 12' and suitably connected thereto, and elongated stringers 21 extend longitudinally of the machine and are connected to struts 16 and cross members 20. The

stringers and cross members comprise the bed of the machine, as is well known in the art. In operation, the vibratory screen assembly 22 rests on the bed of the machine which includes struts 16 and cross members 20, and plastic caps (not shown) are mounted on stringers 21, as is well known in the art, as more specifically shown in U.S. patent No. 4,857,176, which, insofar as pertinent here, is incorporated by reference and for showing a better understanding of the present invention. As noted above, vibratory screening machine 10, as expressed above, is substantially identically described in U.S. patent 5,332,101. Furthermore, as expressed above, any suitable vibratory screening machine, with suitable modification, can mount the improved screen tensioning structure of the present invention.

REPLACE THE 2ND FULL PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 8 which begins on line 5, and continues through line 2 on page 9, with the following:

The movable tensioning member 25 includes an elongated body 30 which is of generally U-shaped configuration (FIG. 7) having a rear side 31 and a front side 32 connected by base or U-bend 36. A plurality of spaced flexible resilient fingers 33 extend from side 32. U-bend 36 is also flexible and resilient. A block 34 has one side welded to rear side 31 at 35 and the opposite side of block 34 is welded at 37 to the central portion of reinforcing bar 39 which has its opposite ends welded to rear side 31 at 40. The portion of reinforcing bar on block 34 is spaced from front side 32. Reinforcing bar 39 rigidizes rear side 31 against excessive flexing. A band

spring 41 is riveted to rear side 31 by a plurality of rivets 42. Fingers 33 have relatively narrow upper portions 43 which merge into downwardly outwardly flaring portions 44 which merge into front side 32. The outermost fingers 45 have upper portions 43' which have the same width as upper portions 43 of fingers 33. However, the lower portions 44' of fingers 45 are narrower than the lower portions 44 of fingers 33. Therefore, the lower portions 44' terminate at valleys 47 which are higher than valleys 49 which are positioned between fingers 33. This is so that fingers 45 will flex substantially the same amounts as fingers 33 when they are stressed during the tensioning process. A plurality of inverted T-shaped members 48 extend outwardly from the bottom of front side 32 for slidably engaging the tops of spaced sides 145 of support 143 (FIGS. 3 and 10).

REPLACE THE 2ND PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 9 which begins on line 22, and continues through line 24 on page 10, with the following:

The improved tensioning structure 24 is preferably used with a screen assembly such as 22 of FIGS. 11 and 12, which is fully a modified form of the screen disclosed in U.S. patent 5,417,859 which is incorporated herein by reference and which can be referred to for better understanding of the screen assembly structure. The screen assembly includes a frame in the form of a perforated metal plate 61, such as steel or any other suitable material, having a first pair of opposite side edges 62 and 63 and a second pair of opposite edges 64 and 65 and an upper surface 67 and a lower surface 69. Plate 61 includes apertures 70

which are bordered by elongated metal strip-like portions or members 71 which extend between side edges 62 and 63 and by shorter strip-like portions 72 and 72' which extend lengthwise between elongated strip-like portions 71. The apertures 70 in the rows adjacent to edges 64 and 65 are 1.71 by 1 1/2 inches and are formed by a punching operation and have rounded corners. The apertures 70 between the rows adjacent to edges 64 and 65 are quadrangles of 1.687 by 1 3/16 inches. Strip-like portions 71 are .1875 inches wide and strips 72 and 72' are approximately .1217 inches wide, but the various strips may be of any desired width and the apertures 70 may be of any desired dimensions. The length of plate 61 between edges 12 and 13 may be approximately 3 1/2 feet, and its width between edges 64 and 65 may be approximately 2 1/2 feet and it may have a thickness of 14 gauge, or any other suitable thickness. It will be appreciated that the size of plate 11 may vary as required to fit different machines. Edges 62 and 63 are mirror-image counterparts. The outer edges 62 and 63 are formed into longitudinally extending flanges which extend throughout the entire width of plate 61, that is, they extend all the way between edges 64 and 65.

REPLACE THE 1ST FULL PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 15 which begins on line 3, and continues through line 25, with the following:

The screen tensioning system of the present invention is initially adjusted as follows. First of all, the tightening nut assemblies 29 are set with the cam followers 129 on the highest portions 125 of cams 123 which

are adjacent lips 127. Thereafter, nut 135, which is integral with cylindrical member 117, is rotated while member 117 is in threaded engagement with bolt threads ~~122~~
121 until the inner sides 137 of fingers 33 are spaced approximately 3/8 inch from the edge of shelf 140 which extends longitudinally along side wall 12' throughout the extent of the side wall underneath three of the screen assemblies 22, each of which has two tension members 25 associated therewith in end-to-end relationship. Each of the six tensioners 25 is adjusted in the foregoing manner. Thereafter, the set screw 141 is adjusted until it hits the end 142 of bolt 120. The set screw has a thread locking compound thereon so that once it has been set, it cannot be unscrewed. In view of the foregoing adjustment, bolt 120 can never be threaded into threaded bore 122 a greater extent than to which it has been set, and thus the inner surfaces 137 of fingers 33 cannot be moved any closer to the edges 139 of shelf 140. However, member 117 can be unscrewed from bolt 120 to thus increase the distance between fingers 33 and edge 139.